

Cynthia Henderson  
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Dear Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Cynthia Henderson and I'm here today in support of SB 1044 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW WAGE EMPLOYERS."

This bill is very important to me because I am a home care worker. I spend my days caring for two clients who are no longer able to care for themselves.

I have a great passion for caring for others and love the work I do. Without me my clients would be unable to perform even basic tasks like bathing or feeding themselves.

The low wages I am paid as a home care worker make it very difficult to even make ends meet. I am constantly making hard decisions on which bills to pay or how I am going to make it another week. After spending all day caring for others my pay is so low I am unable to care for myself or my family.

Connecticut is in a hard financial situation. As legislators, you are forced to make many hard decisions every day, having to cut vital services to your communities in order to put the state's fiscal house in order. This bill offers a solution to some of the hard choices you have to make. By holding large corporations like Wal-Mart and McDonald's responsible for paying a fair wage of \$15 an hour you will ease the burden on our state of low-wage workers draining important state resources in the forms of food, medical and housing assistance. As we speak billion dollar companies are making profits at the expense of their workers and it is costing Connecticut tax payers. We should no longer be forced to subsidize the low-wages workers are paid at large corporations so they can watch their profits grow each month, while squeezing Connecticut's resources. This bill can also add \$250 million to our state at a time when we desperately need it.

This bill would appropriate revenue from the fee to the Department of Social Services to improve consumer-directed services, like I provide as a home care worker.

With more than 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day we have the opportunity to build good jobs right here in Connecticut. Jobs that pay a fair wage, allowing home care workers to be strong contributors to our communities and state's economy. We know our state does better when we can provide good paying jobs. The effects are felt in our towns, our schools and by the small business owners in our communities. We have that opportunity with this bill.

Currently home care workers, who work day in and day out are forced to be on public assistance because their wages are too low to care for their own families. As this workforce

expands to meet the needs of our aging population these current low wages push more in the workforce onto public assistance every day. Providing a \$15/hour wage to home care workers is not only the right thing to do it is also in the best economic interest of our state.

This bill adds meaningful revenue to our state while providing a fair wage to home care workers doing essential work in our communities. I ask you to support 1044 "AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOUPMENT OF STATE COSTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOW WAGE EMPLOYERS." Thank you.